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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

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Thursday, June 10, 1999

OCT 19 1999

To: FCC Chairman, Mr. William Canard
Re: Micro Radio Broadcasting endorsement

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Canard:

I am writing to encourage the FCC to either ignore or license micro broadcasting. Since the decade of non-commercial broadcasting dominance in the 1920's, this philosophical segment of the airwaves has suffered an almost unrelenting series of losses. The CPB and NPR have been under severe pressure and the 1996 Telecommunications "Reform" bill appears to have given tens of billions of dollars worth of spectrum to commercial interests – for free.

Now, commercial broadcasters through the NAB seek to smash the hangnail hold that micro-broadcasting has on public discourse. While it may be important for listeners to be able to learn that there is a nation wide sale of pop tarts going on at the local Safeway, it is as least as important for listeners to hear of meetings at their local senior centers, or to hear the voice of the little kid who lives next door on the air.

Our greatest strengths come from the convergence of diverse perspectives. Don't break micro broadcasting. Give it a break and set it free – or license it.

Sincerely,

Pete Livingston

PS There should be no retaliation provision in the text against those who have been broadcasting in advance of authorization by the FCC. It might turn out that those people actually have the most to contribute.

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